

May 23, 2003

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Attention: Finance Docket No 34075 – Environment Comments

Mr. Rick Black:

I am responding to the letter I received in April regarding the proposed plans to build a new 43-mile railroad line from Levan to Salina.

My husband, Larry and I are both opposed and extremely distressed over this issue for a number of reasons-which I will list.

- Our choice to move to Redmond 7 ½ years ago from northern Utah was based on our concern for the safety of our children and our growing family. We have seven children. We spent a lot of time looking for just the right home that would accommodate all of our growing needs. The home we are now living in is the one we felt suited our family perfectly. We invested all of our savings to acquire it. We have invested a lot of time, money, and work into improving the value of it.
- Last night I received a visit from Mr. Malcolm Nash, the Economic Development Director for Sevier County, concerning the development of the railroad. He showed me a map and it showed that the proposed line would be right next to my house on the west side and going through Carlos Peterson's property (he was unaware of this).
- I have two autistic children (twins) that are only three years old. They already require constant supervision, to have an operating railroad next door just intensifies my stress and worry for them. We did not move here to add danger and stress to our lives.

I don't believe for one minute that this proposed rail line is for the better of the community. It is for the better of a handful of businesses, namely, Sufco Coal Mine,

Hales Sand and Gravel, and Redmond Minerals, so they can cut down their shipping expenses.

You may say that this will cut down on traffic on the roads. There may some truth to this. What about the truck drivers who will lose their jobs, who is going to pay their mortgages? Is the railroad going to guarantee 67 jobs for these men? According to Mr. Nash, 67 jobs will be done away with when the railroad is put in.

Not only will our property value decrease but what damages will occur to our home and foundation from the vibration of the trains passing so close to our house? My husband and I are both licensed Real Estate Agents, we are not ignorant to what this railroad can do to the resale value of our home and property as well as those in the surrounding area.

It is our proposal that you move this proposed rail line farther to the west, west of the state canal, and stay out of the farmer's lands and away from residential homes.

People who are "for" this cause are not going to be living in a home right next to a train track. It is easy to be "for" something like this rail line when it doesn't affect you personally, and you make a profit as well. It would be quite a different story if the rail line was right next door to those individuals who will benefit the most from the rail line.

With the technological advances of our modern day, the rail line could build west of the state canal below the power line that goes north to south staying out of private land owners property.

If this is an issue of expense, I suggest you have those select businesses that are in such need of this rail line to pay the added expenses it will cost to level the land so the railroad can be put in.

My husband said he would agree to have this rail line put in right next to us as long as the rail road would agree to buy us equal land of our choice and build us an exact replica of the home we now own on a cost replacement value/basis.

I don't feel that it is right for people to play God with other peoples lives and impose their wills unjustly.

Barbara Gilbert